

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 11121 171011Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 170924Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6325

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 11121

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET

SUBJECT: KAGNEW ATTACK: USG OFFICIALS' HANDLING OF RANSOM DEMANDS
AND CONTACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF KIDNAPPERS

1. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ELF OR PLF MAY APPROACH
OFFICIAL AMERICANS TO DELIVER RANSOM DEMANDS OR TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE
OR DISCUSS RELEASE OF FOUR AMERICANS KIDNAPPED IN ERITREA. THIS
COULD OCCUR AT ANY TIME IN ASMARA, ADDIS, KHARTOUM, CAIRO OR OTHER
MIDDLE EAST CAPITAL. ELF REPRESENTATIVES CIRCULATE FREELY IN MANY
PLACES, INCLUDING ADDIS, WHERE ONLY LAST WEEK SWISS AMBASSADOR
RECEIVED A CALL FROM ELF REPS WHO PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO SWISS AMB
SHEAF OF PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS ABOUT EPMG ATROCITIES IN ERITREA,
STAMPED WITH ELF SEAL. SWISS AMB ASKED THE TWO ELF'ERS IF THEY WERE
NERVOUS ABOUT COMING TO EMBASSY DURING WORKING HOURS, AND CONTACTING
ETHIOPIAN RECEPTIONIST ON WAY IN. ELF'ERS SAID THEY WERE NOT NERVOUS,
AND HAD ALREADY CHECKED OUT RECEPTIONIST AND HAD CONFIDENCE IN HER
DISCRETION.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO AMEMBASSY WHAT EMBOFFS SHOULD DO
IF DIRECTLY CONTACTED BY REPS OF KIDNAPPERS. DO WE ACCEPT
DOCUMENT OR ORAL STATEMENT, OR DO WE ASK THEM TO CONVEY TO
ETHIOPIAN GOVT? DO WE THEN TRY TO ARRANGE FOR FURTHER MEETING
OR CONTACT? DO WE ASK QUESTIONS ON WHEREABOUTS AND WELFARE OF
KIDNAPPEES? WE WOULD OF COURSE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT
IMMEDIATELY, BUT BELIEVE WE NEED GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE ANY
INITIAL CONTACT.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 11121 171011Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750322-0048
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750941/aaaabkha.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
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Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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